

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application as amended.

Before amendment, independent claims 23, 32, 40, and 47 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over East et al. ("East") (U.S. Patent No. 6061458) in view of Arnold et al. ("Arnold") (U.S. Patent No. 6160213). Before amendment, dependent claims 24-30, 33-39, 41-46, 48, and 49 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over East in view of Arnold. Before amendment, claim 31 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Independent claims 23, 32, 40, and 47 have been amended. Claim 31 has been cancelled.

Claim 31 Objection

Claim 31 has been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 31 limitations have been incorporated into independent claim 23 upon which it was only dependent. Claim 31 has been cancelled without prejudice.

Claim 23 Rejection

Independent claim 23 now incorporates the limitations of the objected to dependent claim 31. Applicants submit that, as amended, claim 23 is distinguished over the cited art and thus allowable as well as those claims dependent on claim 23.

Claim 32 Rejection

Independent claim 32 is a system claim in line with the GUI claim of claim 23. The limitations of the objected to claim 31 have been incorporated into the as amended claim 32. Applicants submit that, as amended, claim 32 is distinguished over the cited art and thus allowable as well as those claims dependent on claim 32.

Claims 40 and 47 Rejection

Independent claim 40 is an apparatus claim, and independent claim 47 is a Beauregard style claim, both in line with the GUI claim of claim 23. The limitations of the objected to claim 31 have been incorporated into the as amended claims 40 and 47. Applicants submit that, as amended, claims 40 and 47 are distinguished over the cited art and thus allowable as well as those claims dependent on claims 40 and 47.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections have been overcome and request allowance of all claims.

The Examiner is invited to call Alan Heimlich at 408 720-8300 x326 if there remains any issue with allowance.

Please charge any shortage to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 and take any extension of time necessary.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

23. (Amended) A graphical user interface (GUI) of a player/recorder system comprising:

a first display portion including a plurality of control boxes each to control a corresponding one or more of a plurality of player tracks of each of a plurality of audio processing modules; [and]

a second display portion including a central control mechanism for substantially simultaneously controlling all of the plurality of tracks of each of the plurality of audio processing modules; and

a third display portion including a plurality of recorder control boxes each to control a corresponding one or more of a plurality of recorder tracks of each of the plurality of audio processing modules.

31. (Cancelled)

32. (Amended) In a player/recorder system having a plurality of audio processing modules each having one or more tracks and each connected to a computer system having a processor and a display, a graphical user interface method of centrally controlling each of the one or more tracks of the plurality of audio processing modules, the method comprising:

generating a first display portion on the display by the processor, the first display portion including a plurality of control boxes to control a corresponding

one or more of a plurality of player tracks of each of the plurality of audio processing modules; [and]

generating a second display portion on the display by the processor, the second display portion including a central control mechanism for simultaneously controlling all of the plurality of tracks of each of the plurality of audio processing modules; and

generating a third display portion including a plurality of recorder control boxes each to control a corresponding one or more of a plurality of recorder tracks of each of the plurality of audio processing modules.

40. (Amended) An apparatus for controlling a plurality of audio processing modules in a player/recorder system, each of the plurality of audio processing modules having one or more input/output ("I/O") channels, the apparatus comprising:

a display;

a storage device containing routines to control the audio processing modules and generate displays;

an interface to the I/O channels of the plurality of audio processing modules; and

a processor coupled to the storage device to produce

a first display portion of a graphical user interface including a plurality of control boxes to control corresponding player I/O channels of the plurality of audio processing modules;[, and]

a second display portion of the graphical user interface including a central control mechanism to substantially simultaneously control all of the I/O channels of the plurality of audio processing modules; and

a third display portion of the graphical user interface including a plurality of recorder control boxes each to control a corresponding one or more of a plurality of recorder tracks of each of the plurality of audio processing modules.

47. (Amended) A machine-readable medium having stored thereon data representing instructions which, when executed by a machine, cause the machine to perform operations comprising:

generating a first display portion on a display of a player/recorder system, the first display portion including a plurality of control boxes to control a corresponding one or more of a plurality of player tracks of each of a plurality of audio processing modules;[and]

generating a second display portion on the display, the second display portion including a central control mechanism for simultaneously controlling all of the plurality of tracks of each of the plurality of audio processing modules; and

generating a third display portion including a plurality of recorder control boxes each to control a corresponding one or more of a plurality of recorder tracks of each of the plurality of audio processing modules.